

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 AID-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 H-02 /063 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/LA/MRSD:JMO'GRADY:ABH

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R 200100Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VENAMCHAM AND CTV LOBBYING VISIT

REF: CARACAS 3837

1. AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVES BOGGS AND MCCLELLAN TALKED TO CTV PRESIDENT VARGAS DURING AFL-CIO CONVENTION ABOUT BENTSEN BILL TO AMEND TITLE V OF 1974 TRADE ACT. THEY STATE EMPHATICALLY, HOWEVER, THAT NO PROMISE WAS MADE IN RELATION TO ANY AMENDMENT TO THE TRADE BILL. WHILE THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE AFL-CIO HAS SPECIFICALLY OPPOSED THE BENTSEN AMENDMENT, THE POSITION OF THE AFL-CIO, BOTH BEFORE AND SINCE THE CONVENTION IN NOVEMBER, HAS BEEN ONE OF CONSISTENT OPPOSITION TO ANY EXPANSION OF GSP. THERE IS NO RECORD OF ITS HAVING
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DEVIATED IN ANY RESPECT FROM THIS GENERAL PRINCIPLE.

2. MCLELLAN HAS CONTACTED VARGAS THROUGH HIS OWN CHANNELS TO EXPLAIN THE AFL-CIO POSITION AND CLEAR UP ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING VARGAS MAY HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT. HE IS ALSO DISCOURAGING VARGAS FROM VISITING THE AFL-CIO AND SUGGESTING THAT THE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA NEXT JUNE WOULD PROVIDE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION WITH US LABOR AS WELL AS EMPLOYER AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATES.

3. FYI: WE ARE INFORMED THAT THE RECENT OWENS-ILLINOIS NATIONALIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT HAS MADE A PROPOSED VENAMCHAM JOINT MISSION TO WASHINGTON UNLIKELY. ADDITIONALLY, A SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNIOR STAFFER REPORTS THAT THE NATIONALIZATION HAS HAD A NEGATIVE INITIAL IMPACT ON THE US CONGRESS, PREJUDICING VENEZUELA'S CHANCES FOR GSP CONSIDERATION. ROBINSON

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